

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph of beginning on Page 3, Line 23 and ending on Page 5, Line 2 with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

Figure 1 shows a network interface circuit 10 including a MAC 12 interconnected with a PHY 14 through a double data rate SMII 16 that may include a MAC component 16a and a PHY component 16b. The network interface circuit 10 interfaces one or more Ethernet network ports to a computer ~~(not shown)~~ 17. The network interface circuit 10 may be implemented on a peripheral device such as a network interface card and as an integral portion of the computer 17 such as on a motherboard of the computer 17. The double data rate SMII 16 supports Ethernet 10/100 physical layers and may communicate complete MII information between the MAC 12 and the PHY 14. The SMII 16 provides unidirectional communication between the MAC 12 and PHY 14 through one or more ports and advantageously only requires an average of one pin per port. In a conventional unidirectional system, two pins for port would be required, one pin for transmit and one pin for receive. Instead, the SMII interleaves transmit signals from pairs of ports through one pin, and interleaves receive signals from the pairs of ports on other pins, so that pairs of ports share two pins to communicate receive and transmit data. Therefore, by sharing pins between ports, an average of one pin per port is required to support multiple ports. Requiring only a single pin per port instead of the two pins per port required by conventional SMII significantly reduces the pin count required for the MAC 12 and PHY 14, permitting an increase in the quantity of Ethernet ports that are supported by each within given device profiles. For example, a MAC or PHY used for a 24 port hub would require 24 fewer pins without eliminating functionality.